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The Least of These

Ashleigh Jardine
Andrews University

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The Least of These

BY ASHLEIGH JARDINE

"Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me."—Matthew 25:40, NKJV

Ryan McCabe is painting with a purpose this semester. Ryan, a graphic design major at Andrews University, presented his Senior Thesis Exhibition in March. Entitled, "The Least of These," the exhibit purposed to find sponsors for 20 children in need around the globe. Sponsorships were made through Compassion International, a Christian child advocacy ministry.



Ryan McCabe

Ryan painted portraits of the children for the event. At the exhibit, attendees could sign up to sponsor a child whose painting was on the wall. As an incentive, sponsors could keep the child's painting.

Like all Bachelor of Fine Arts students, Ryan was required to host a senior exhibition before graduation. He toyed with several themes, but no idea seemed to fit. That is, until January when Ryan heard a worship talk by professor Duffy Robbins of Eastern University. "He talked about his experience with sponsorship through Compassion, and I realized I'm actually in a position to sponsor a kid," says Ryan. "The reason I had become inspired to do that was because the idea had been presented in the right way. I wanted to present that same information in a way that would make people catch on to it, so even a group of college students would want to sponsor."

Ryan sponsored a child in January. After much prayer and planning, he decided he could make a difference in more children's lives through his artwork. He contacted Compassion and asked for 20 more information packets, then he spent nearly four hours on each painting. Ryan spent his spring break painting and building wooden frames. He also created a Facebook page and put up posters around campus, hoping even ten children would receive sponsors.

His hard work and prayers paid off. An impressive crowd showed up for the exhibit. To Ryan's amazement, each child received a sponsor—giving each a chance for education, health and an environment to learn about God.

"It blew me away," says Ryan. "I was not expecting this kind of a reaction. ... It ended up being ten times better than what I was expecting. God really took this idea to the next level."

Be sure to check out Ryan's Web site at www.ryanmccabedesign.com.

Ashleigh Jardine is a freelance writer from Berrien Springs, Michigan. She is a physical therapy major at Andrews University.

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